



International
Labour
Organization



Italian Development
Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation



Enabling job resilience and protecting decent work conditions in rural communities affected by Syrian refugees crisis in Northern Lebanon



The Syrian conflict and the influx of refugees into Lebanon has resulted in various economic and social spill over effects in host communities such as stalled economic activity, loss of income and livelihoods, and shrinking access to public services.

To address the ongoing crisis with a focus on employment and livelihoods, the ILO project entitled “**Enabling job resilience and protecting decent work conditions in rural communities affected by Syrian refugees crisis in northern Lebanon**” aims to enhance the resilience of producers and workers affected by the Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon’s rural areas through:

- Improving the employability of vulnerable job seekers;
- increasing income generation and employment creation in the agricultural sector (potatoes and leafy greens);
- and enhancing capacities of service providers to boost local economic development.

Vocational training and employment services

This project recognizes the need to focus on enhancing the employability of new labour market entrants through improved counselling and job orientation services based on labour market needs and, subsequently, offer job placement services.

The project’s capacity building activities for employment counselors aims to empower them to offer a range of employment assistance services to both job seekers and employers.

Improved counseling and orientation services as well as an established network of employment assistance will help job seekers to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to find work independently or through the employment services. Moreover, such

matching their occupational requirements with suitable candidates.

To garner a more comprehensive understanding of the labour market, the project also contributes to the collection and analysis of labour market data to assist job seekers, employers, and decision makers to address economic and labour market requirements.

The ILO also provides technical assistance to implementing agencies of Public Employment Programmes. In particular, the project facilitated the sharing of experiences and national and international best practices.

The project furthermore partners with the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen the short-term training for youth agriculture

Objectives

To create productive employment through local economic development and sustainable enterprises, in order to:

- Improve labour market intermediation and employability of vulnerable job seekers
- Increase the income generation and employment creation potential of an agriculture value chain through local economic development
- Enhance the capacity of service providers to produce local economic development opportunities

This project is funded by the ILO and the Italian Development Cooperation, and implemented in collaboration with local stakeholders

***Project Duration
June 2014 – March 2016***



Syrian refugee workers including many children at the potato harvest in Akkar

Sustainable Local Economic Development

The project will involve various local stakeholders including government representatives, local non-governmental organizations, cooperatives, women's groups, vulnerable community representatives, as well as workers' and employers' organizations to ensure a holistic and coordinated response to local economic development issues faced by rural Lebanese communities affected by the Syrian refugee crisis.

Through the process of Local Economic Development (LED) dialogue the potato and leafy greens sectors were selected, value chain analysis supported and priorities identified. The project now supports the implementation of prioritized value chain development interventions to enhance the value chain's efficiency and responsiveness to the needs of the vulnerable, in particular the farmers of host communities.

Findings of the value chain analysis show significant constraints at the productions level and the need for stronger collaboration of small holder farmers in both value chains, as well as potential export opportunities to Europe for Akkar's potatoes. Furthermore, child labour and the often invisible work of women represent critical decent work deficits in both sectors that need to be addressed.

All LED interventions will be based on the Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P) approach and are meant to help build a sustainable source of employment and income for the vulnerable poor to increase their resilience against economic shocks resulting from the Syrian refugee crisis.

Capacity building and business expansion

The project puts a strong emphasis of building the capacities of local organizations to drive the economic development of their region. It furthermore provides both skills training and business development services to address the needs identified in local economic value chains.

The project also facilitates, enhances and creates networks in the market system to ensure the longer-term sustainability of the results in terms of income generation and employment creation.

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